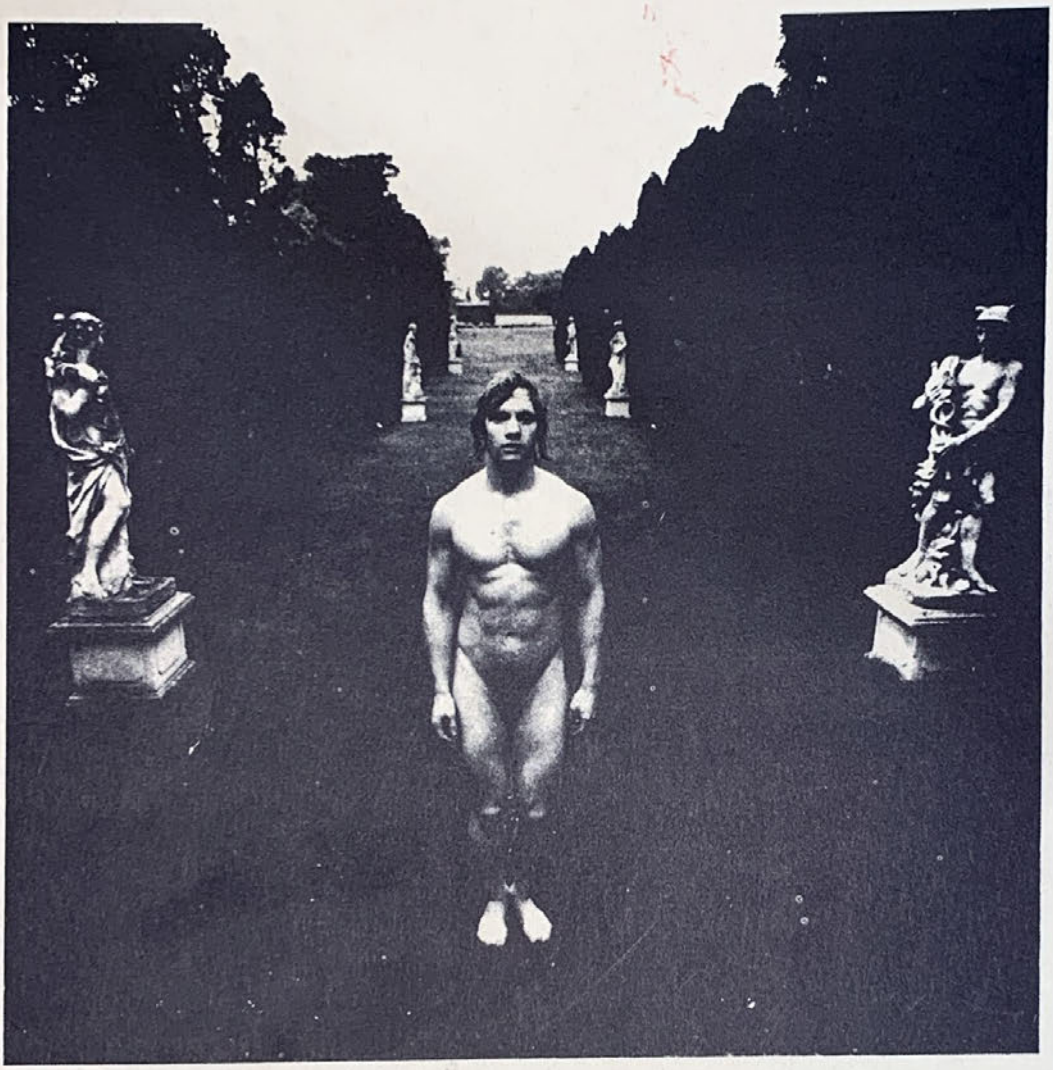
BI-MONTHLY

▽THE MAGAZINE FOR BISEXUALS

BI-MONTHLY No. 18 *75p*



A LOOK AT LESBIAN & GAY POLITICS

HOMOSEXUALITY & LIBERATION

BISEXUALITY: IN NEWSWEEK ON THE RADIO

PERSONAL ADS

TO REPLY TO A BOX NUMBER:- PUT YOUR LETTER(S) INTO AN UNADDRESSED PLAIN ENVELOPE WITH THE BOX NUMBER MARKED CLEARLY IN THE TOP RIGHT HAND CORNER, (SO WE CAN STICK A STAMP OVER IT). PUT THIS INTO A LARGER ENVELOPE, TOGETHER WITH LOOSE STAMP(S) AND SEND TO:- BI-MONTHLY, BOX NUMBER REPLIES, BOX BM-BI, LONDON WC1N 3XX.

Personal ads are free. And they can get you in touch with like-minded people all over the country. Write to: BI-MONTHLY, BOX BM-BI, LONDON WC1N 3XX.

****

Bisexual seeks others in the Staffordshire area. Hope to form a group or network. Box 18/1.

Midlands - young man (24) My fantasy - any kind, attractive, male teacher types out there? Do you seek a loyal friend? A.L.A. Photo please. Box 18/2.

Bisexual male, twenties, seeks male or female friends, for friendship, relationship, or brief fling, but please state which. Box 18/3.

Torbay - Male/Female Couple seek Bisexual man (21-35) for sincere friendship/relationship. Photo helps. A.L.A. Box 18/4.

Male Bisexual 40-ish based Northern Ireland - but will travel. Wishes to contact bi-girls/ lesbians for frank exchange of letters, phone calls and possible relationship. Accommodation available Belfast (quiet area). Confidentiality assured. Photo appreciated - but not essential. Box 18/5.

Bi-male, married, aged 34. Slim build, very clean. Seeks single bi-males/bi-females/couples for good clean sexual fun. Your place only. Will travel or correspond. Photo if possible, but not essential. Box 18/6.

Manchester - male, single, 29, graduate, bisexual, hopes to meet like-minded people (male and female) for warm, loving friendship and sharing life's pleasures: music, theatre, travel,etc. Photo appreciated, confidence respected. Box 18/7.

Attractive Asian Bi-guy, slim, 27, 5'10", 9 stone, non-smoker, non-scene so feels cut off. Seeks one sincere, genuine, attractive slim partner, under 33 for full exciting relationship. Interest include travel, music, massage, videos, nights in and out and much more. Own place in London. Photo assures mine. Box 18/8.

Lowestoft - I would welcome contacts with any M or F bi's in the locality bearing in mind I am married - wife aware, 39, professional occupation. Box 18/9.

Bi-guy,38, traveller throughout UK, seeks other affectionate bi-guy or couples anywhere, under 50, for regular visits while 'on the road'. Clean, health-conscious, looking for good reliable friends.A.L.A. Box 17/1.

Belfast - Cute, well-hung,lonely bisexual guy (21) seeks similar as secret friend. Photo please. Box 17/3.

Bi-female,24,seeks Bi/gay females/males for friendship/relationship. Enjoys people, music, cinema, dancing, food, theatre, sport. Glasgow area/ Edinburgh.Box 17/4.

London - Bisexual male,25, boyish with blond hair, blue eyes and understanding lover, seeks bisexual women, men or couples (under 30 but any colour/race) for friendship and safe fun. Photo please. Box 17/6.

Birmingham - Lesbian-identified bisexual woman would like to correspond with others anywhere on experiences of long-term celibacy, and life's other pleasures!Box 17/7.

Bisexual male (20), not unattractive, answers to name of Euan,living in sunny Stockport, who seeks other bisexuals (m/f) who would like to write to me and meet me. Interests; music,cycling,travelling and wine-making.
I'd like similar folk who are quiet, interesting and not too tall!
Photo not important but appreciated. Please write soon! Box 17/8.

Will anyone interested in setting up a group in the Bedford/Milton Keynes area please contact Box 17/9.

Conisbrough - Bisexual male married with family, age 40+ seeks friendship with male in similar circumstances Sheffield/ Doncaster area. Box 17/10.

Bi-male 27 single new to London and Bi/gay scene generally. Looking for some friends who enjoy communication. I'm a quiet, non-yuppy graduate, into cycling, walking, backpacking, music and massage. Box 17/11.

****

BISEXUAL PHONELINE 031-557 3620 7.30 - 9.30 pm

****

BISEXUAL GROUPS

MANCHESTER: meet at Resource Centre, 61 Bloom St. 1st Thursday montly 8.30 - 10.00 Contact Paul Owen on 01-236 5986 (4-10pm) or 01-228 3554 (2-4pm).

MANCHESTER WOMEN'S BISEXUAL GROUP - meet 2nd Thursday of the month, at Manchester Gay Centre, 61a Bloom St., Manchester. For further info: Vi, c/o WBG, P.O.Box 153, Manchester M60 1LP.

EDINBURGH Bisexual Group meets Thursdays at Lesbian and Gay Community Centre, 58a Broughton St.

LONDON BISEXUAL WOMEN'S GROUP, c/o LBG, London WC1N 3XX
Write for details of WOMEN'S DROP IN.

The older lesbian and bisexual women's group is a non-scene group that meets for meals, etc. in London SW1. Telephone: 01-979 0695 (6-8 pm).

LONDON Bisexual Group meets Mondays at the Fallen Angel, 8.30pm. 65 Graham Street, London N1. Details : David 01-340-5729.

TYNESIDE: Bisexual contact: Simon Henderson, 31 Harrison Place, Sndyford, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, NE2 1DE.

Contacts for Bisexuals in Nalgo: tel. Zadie 01-806-9264 or Dorothy 01-853-4402 (evenings) or write to Box BM BI, London WC1N 3XX.

SIGMA: support for relationships where one partner is gay or bisexual. Details LLGS 01-837-7324.

Bisexuals and married gay group. Details: Nigel 01-558-5203 (5.30-10pm)

SHOUT! A CAMPAIGN GROUP FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MEN AND BISEXUALS. This group was recently formed as a response to growing homophobia in the Establishment (esp. in the media). Campaigning in defence of sexual minorities. The group will be visibly active in Glasgow. Anyone interested should contact SHOUT! Box No.19, 240 West Princes St. Glasgow.

ABROAD
United States:
Boston Bisexual Womens' Network, PO Box 639, Cambridge MA02140.
Boston Bisexual Mens' Network, PO Box 1645, Cambridge MA 02238.
East Coast Bisexual Network, PO Box 639, Cambridge MA 02140.

San Francisco Bisexual Centre, 1757 Hayes St. San Francisco CA 94117.
Chicago Bi-Ways, PO Box A333 Q, Chicago ILL 60690.

University of Massachusetts Bisexual Group, Amhurst MA 01002.

New York: Bisexual Support Group c/o Bill Himelhoch, 4861 Broadway, Apt. No. 6-S. NY 10034.

The Bulletin Board, PO Box 8556, New York NY 10150.

Netherlands:
Landelijk Netwerk Biseksualiteit PO Box 5087, NL 1007AB, Amsterdam or telephone Vroomshoop 05498-44384.

West Germany:
Initiative Bisexualler Frauen & Manner, c/o E. Kocher, Am Niddatal 31, D-6000, FRANKFURT-A-M 90. 069- 76 19 43
Die Lade, 'Bi-Initiative', Karl-Marx-Strasse 58, D1000 BERLIN 44. 030-624 37 61. Thurs 11.00 - 13.00

USEFUL NUMBERS:

Lesbian and Gay Youth Movement, BM GYM, London WC1N 3XX 01-317-9690.

Gay Legal Advice 01-253 2043.(Mon - Fri 7-10pm).

AIDS Helpline: Terrence Higgins Trust 01-242 1010 (3-10pm).

Lesbian Line 01-251-6911.

London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard 01-837-7324.

Leeds AIDS helpline Mondays and Thursdays 7-9pm (0532) 444209.

Lesbian and Gay Youthline 031-228-4531. Mon,Wed, 7-10pm, Sunday afternoons.

Gay London Police Monitoring Group (GALOP) 01- 278 6215

Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE) 01-359 3973

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if you liked this issue then why not take out a subscription - it will show your support and makes future planning much easier. And there are lots of advantages when you subscribe:

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THIS ISSUE: -

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PRIDE '87

Bisexual Banners Flying photo: Nigel Hatton, Gay Times

This year's Pride Festival was the biggest ever. There were about 11 000 on the march from Hyde Park to Jubilee Gardens, where the festival attracted about 16 000.

Many of the banners were in the first half of the march. At one point there was half a mile of people behind our two banners, making it look as though our contingent was the biggest.

The day was an enjoyable one, we were proud to show both gays and straights that bisexuals really exist, and are committed to 'lesbian and gay pride'.

★★ DAILY EXPRESS

We are all bisexual, claims Red Ken

KEN LIVINGSTONE (MP) COMES OUT

Britain's last general election heralded the Parliamentary debut of Britain's first 'out' bisexual MP, Ken Livingstone of Brent East.

In a series of interviews with the national media, Mr Livingstone has taken pains to draw attention to issues of gay rights and bisexual identity.

'My view is that we are all bisexual', he told Woman's Own Magazine. 'I don't believe there is anyone who could honestly say that at some time in their life thay were not attracted to someone of the same sex'.

Has he been? 'Oh yes', he says. And has he been er.....actively bisexual? I never discuss details he says wagging a finger.

'I am not about to start to bouncing up and down and saying I'm normal. You can't be in favour of challenging discrimination against gays and pretend you are just a sympathiser and it's nothing to do with you, although I'm not prepared to respond to what newspapers say about my sex life'.

Ken Livingstone predictably came under attack for these honest remarks, in the gutter press.

TV LINE

A commercial phone contact line for bisexual people is now advertising in Time Out magazine. Called 'TV Line', it's advertising is aimed at bisexuals, transvestites and transexuals. By dialing the number 007-777 5580 you can listen in to recorded messages from people who are advertising for company.

Bi-Monthly has phoned this line on a number of occassions (in the interests of research you understand). And we would warn our readers that this category of phone number is charged at 35p per minute. The recorded messages are quite lengthy and really rather dull.

BARRY KOHN

Barry Kohn, a gay activist died of complications from AIDS on June 2. He was 44 years old. He worked as a civil rights attorney, then became Deputy Attorney General for the Pennsylvania Department of Justice, and was in the centre of legal battles for civil and gay rights. In 1975 he was appointed by Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp to monitor the state's efforts to end discrimination against sexual minorities, and was involved in the formation of the Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities.

In Spring 1976, Kohn founded a support group for gay and bisexual married men. The group continues to function today.

NEW YORK NATIVE/JUNE 29, 1987 David Lobe

BARRY KOHN

In 1980 Prentice Hall published 'Barry and Alice: Portrait of a Bisexual Marriage', which Kohn co-wrote with his wife, Alice Matusow. The book served to heighten the awareness of the public at large, and of the nations many bisexuals in particular, that there were others who embraced an alternative lifestyle. Kohn subsequently appeared on the TV-radio talk-show cricuit, including two appearances on the 'Donahue' show. (Now appearing on LWT, 5am, most nights)

At various times, Kohn was a model, singer, waiter and pastry chef. His concern for the struggles of other bisexual and gay men led him to continue his writing and counselling through the years.

TV? Bisexual? Transexual?
listen in confidence to the Alternative Line for alternative dating just listen now to the recorded messages from people wanting to meet people just like you. Just ring and listen on 007 777 5580.

FIFTH NATIONAL BISEXUAL CONFERENCE

Edinburgh Bisexual Group has distributed over 4000 leaflets throughout Britain advertising this year's National Conference, being held on October 16-18th.

They are expecting a good response, and if previous conferences are anything to go by, a good proportion of women.

Free crash accomodation will be provided to people who register in advance.

Everyone, bisexual or not is welcome to attend.

THERE IS A REGISTRATION FORM, AND MORE DETAILS OF THE CONFERENCE,ON PAGES SEVEN AND EIGHT OF THIS MAGAZINE.

PHONELINE CASH APPEAL

A desperate appeal for cash has gone out from the Edinburgh Bisexual Phoneline, (the only phoneline for bisexuals). The service, previously paid for by the Scottish Homosexual Rights Group must now become self-financing or face disconnection. Send donations to Edinburgh Bisexual Phoneline, Lesbian and Gay Centre, 58a Broughton St, Edinburgh.

Please note the number is 031-557 3620, and the phoneline is open Thursdays 8-10 pm.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

The Boston Bisexual Women's Network proudly celebrates its 4th birthday this September. From an initial membership of eight, its mailing list has now expanded to nine hundred. BBWN's purpose is to provide support and education about bisexuality, and achieves this through support groups, social activities, a speaker's bureau, archives and 'Bi-Women', a bi-monthly newsletter. For more info write to:-

BBWN, Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140, USA

MENACE GOES WILDE

The staff at West & Wilde Bookshop (left to right) - Sigrid, David, Kate, Bob, Margaret and Ray

Lavender Menace Bookshop in Edinburgh has moved, and changed its name to: West & Wilde Bookshop.

The new name comes from Oscar Wilde and Vita Sackville-West, two giants of our literary heritage.

The shop is at street level in the centre of the New Town, and has three times the space of the old shop.

They have a wide range of books, and their reknowned mail order service continues.

'Independent Women' is a free newsletter launched earlier this year. It covers all kinds of books for and by women, and will provide a guide as to what is available in the fast expanding area of Women's publishing. This can be obtained from West & Wilde by sending a second class stamp.

25A DUNDAS STREET, EDINBURGH
EH3 6QQ, tel: 031-556 0079
m-f 9-9,sat 9-7,sun 12-6

INSURANCE MATTERS

As reported in the last issue of Bi-Monthly, insurance problems are worsening for all gay and bisexual people.

The Association of British Insurers has told all insurance companies to include questions about sexuality and AIDS testing in their application forms.

AIDS sufferers and body positive people are considered to be un-insurable. They are not eligible to claim under private health schemes (the disease is termed 'self-inflicted').

And in a worrying new development, all people applying for insurance or endowment mortgages are being asked if they are gay or bisexual. The implication is if they answer 'yes' to these questions it will be assumed that they are a high risk group and cover is refused.

This does not just affect first time applications. In many cases, people who are already insured have been approached afresh 'to answer a few questions previously overlooked'. These will include the sexuality clauses.

THE GaySafe CONDOM

The GAY SAFE condom was developed following specifications for an anal condom from the Dutch Aids Co-ordination Team. Based on a survey of 25 gay couples. These specifications are rather different from a standard condom:–

• Strong dry teatless condom • Separate sachet of KY jelly • Elastic band for extra protection • Plus illustrated instructions.

1 Condom/KY box 90p each 6 condom/KY box £4.50
Min order £2.70

XDC Marketing, P.O. Box 141, Wolverhampton, WV10 9AX

HEPATITIS B

Hepatitis B, the incurable liver disease is spreading in Britain. It is usually a sexually transmitted disease, and as such is far more infectious than AIDS.

A report in The Independent newspaper quoted medical sources as saying that six per cent of the British population are infected.

A vaccine is available from the National Health Service; it gives immunity for three years. But this vaccine has not been widely advertised because it costs sixty pounds per patient.

We recommend that you ask your GP's for this vaccine, which must be supplied at the standard prescription cost. Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinics may be more sympathetic.

CRAIG IS FREE !

Craig Diver was kept in care by the Stathclyde Social Services, beyond his sixteenth birthday because they knew him to be gay.

photo: 'Gay Times'

Craig Diver

Friday July 3rd 1987 Capital Gay

Craig was openly gay while confined in Kerelaw List 'D' school, in Stevenston in Ayrshire, (the Scottish equivalent of an approved school - Borstal). He was queerbashed by other boys and threatened by members of staff. His letters were opened and his freedom denied, when the staff realised that he was going to Edinburgh to visit the Lesbian and Gay Centre, there, and that he had contact with lesbian and gay organisations.

His case was bought to the public attention by the Legislation for Lesbian and Gay Rights Campaign, who tried to help Craig seek political assylum in Norway. Norway was chosen as it has extensive legislation protecting lesbian and gay rights.

The 'GAY PLOT TO SPRING BOY' as the papers put it, failed on the day before Craig was due to leave the country. A press conference was held, in which Craig talked mainly to the gay press.

Later that day the police turned up knocking at the door, and Craig was taken, shaking, to Holborn Police Station, where he was kept overnight and questioned.

The TODAY newspaper put the story on its front page and told of how it had tracked Craig to his secret hideaway.

In fact (quite ludicrously) they had been invited to the press conference by Eric Presland (worker for the Legislation Campaign) and Andrew Lumsden (gay journalist sacked by the 'New Statesman'). Eric has been questioned by the Holborn police, but refused to say anything, and no charges have been brought.

Craig is a confident young man, totally committed to 'lesbian and gay rights'. After his recapture he returned to the school (to be beaten up yet again) where he started the fight for his own freedom.

On June 19 he was represented by Ben Perks of the National Association of Young People In Care at a Children's Panel Hearing. They decided Craig was not capable of looking after himself. When his appeal to the Sheriff Court failed it looked like he faced at least another year of imprisonment.

But Craig found the local press were still interested in his case, and he exploited that. Sympathetic staff turned a blind eye as he went to be interviewed by Radio West Sound. Eventually Strathclyde social services had enough of the bad publicity, and have granted Craig his freedom.

Talking to Craig, his delight at being free is obvious, but he cannot conceal his bitterness at the social work system, and its cruel and corrupt practices. 'The conditions there are shite!' he told me.

The deputy director of Strathclyde Social services was quoted by TODAY as saying 'It is nonsense to suggest that Craig is being kept in care for anything else than his own welfare. We are extremely concerned for his safety'.

Now he's out of 'care', his 'welfare' has been greatly improved. His case highlights the lack of rights of young people, particularly for those in care institutions. Now he is free, but there are many thousands who are not.

AN UNBIASED LOOK AT:

LESBIAN AND GAY POLITICS

Words Fail Us

A CONFERENCE set up to work out ways of combatting the rising tide of violence and prejudice gay men and lesbians (Oops! *Lesbians and gay men*) face in society, has collapsed over the use of the controversial word *'and'*.

The trouble started when a speaker inadvertently used the forbidden word which incurred the wrath of a group of Dyslexic Revolutionary Giro-users who had earlier insisted they be allowed to veto any word that began with the letter 'A'.

"This bourgeois word will be completely unacceptable to the many Yugoslavian three-parent families engaged in struggle against the jackbooted Tory Third Reich!" screeched party stalwart Redgrave Spart who sounded like a parrot having its beak sawn off. But he was soon brought up short by the Workers Against Adjectives collective, who pointed out that his accusation contained no fewer than 8 adjectives which directly contravened composite 6 of a motion passed earlier that morning in the Pro-Libyan vegetarian creche.

"How was he supposed to know that?" screeched Dawn Trot, who nobody could understand because she will only speak in Cantonese in the presence of men wearing Hush Puppies.

"Can I point out that there are only 4 people in this plenary session with ginger hair, thus making this whole conference completely unrepresentative? Not only that, but no one has used the future conditional tense since 2.35pm!" screeched an asthmatic acupuncturist from Hackney. "Furthermore, no one has even bothered to conjugate the verb *'to hang-glide!'* Why have the legitimate needs of hang-gliding lesbians and gay men been totally ignored?"

At this point the conference disintegrated into chaos. On leaving the hall, delegates saw a group of thugs beating up a young gay man who was screaming "Help! Help!" After an emergency card-vote it was decided not to assist the young man, on the grounds that he was using a transitive verb in its imperative form!

LEGISLATION CONFERENCE — THE TRUE STORY!

When we left this exciting story, the Legislation for Lesbian and Gay Rights Campaign was on the way to organising its big conference.

Well, the idea of the Conference was to draw up a Charter of proposed changes in the law, as the start of a wider campaign. The Campaign generated publicity and attracted 500 people, to the biggest event of its kind, for many years.

However instead of producing a Charter the Conference dissolved into a bubbling cauldron of disagreements. Common ground could not be found.

The Conference started reasonably well, with workshops discussing different areas of the law, and with varying degrees of success, they produced lists of demands. The idea was that these be looked at by a 'Charter Drafting meeting' on the first evening, and a Draft Charter be produced for further discussion, to be voted upon in the final plenary.

Instead:-

SABOTAGE

At the CHARTER DRAFTING MEETING people from the 'Lesbian' and 'Black and Minority Ethnic' caucuses forcefully demanded the right of veto for the six 'specially oppressed' groups, whose existence the Conference organisers had deigned. (In the final plenary the veto was accepted and 'lesbian mothers' was added to:- lesbian, black and minority ethnic, young lesbians and gays, older lesbians and gays, young people in care, people with disabilities).

THE CHARTER FELL AS THE ARGUMENTS PREVENTED THE REDUCTION OF THE PAGES OF WORKSHOP PROPOSALS TO A FORM WHICH THE CONFERENCE COULD HANDLE.

The final plenary was a highly charged and intimidatory affair (and at times very funny in a sick sort of way). Queues of people gathered to grab the microphone , and find scapegoats for the failure of the Conference. Sadly, neither at this time or since were the real saboteurs of the Conference named, or blamed.

OLGA CHE

NATIONAL

OLGA RISES FROM THE ASHES OF THE CONFERENCE

Were the Conference organisers discouraged by its failure? No, they don't give up so easily, and have set up OLGA, Organisation for Lesbian and Gay Action. They see it as the best thing since sliced bread, 'the most exciting new initiative in Lesbian and Gay Rights for many years'.

It was the caucus veto system which helped wreck the Conference, and OLGA will be firmly based upon such a system, which is why the OLGA organisers are going around saying that the Conference was not a failure.

'A few hiccups' are the words they used for the fiasco, in a begging trip to the CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality) annual conference.

It was CHE, grand old man of gay politics, (relatively rich, but a little sleepy and inactive), that funded the Legislation Campaign worker, and provided an office.

Now OLGA is seeking a merger with CHE. It is clear that they want CHE's money and office, but without the white gay men that dominate CHE.

Narrowly, The CHE conference decided to have a Commission talk with OLGA and liaise with CHE members, and to report back, before a special conference to decide the issue in a year's time.

The anti-merger lobby shouted for a postal ballot, which received the necessary one fifth vote, and so the commission proposal will be voted upon by CHE's members.

OLGA AND BISEXUALITY

'Bisexuals' are not the most 'right on' of groups, (around which OLGA seems based), and we lie at the fringe of lesbian and gay politics. Many lesbians object that the presence of bisexual males is oppressive to them, and that bisexuals should be banned from gay venues, conferences, etc.

So, where does OLGA lie?

There's a clue in their membership form, as a condition of joining you have to 'define yourself as lesbian or gay'.

This excludes those who identify as 'bisexual' or as 'pedofile' and those who choose not to stick a label on their sexuality, at all.

To me, this reveals the lack of the organisers' concepts of liberation. 'Homosexuality' was defined in order to set us apart and repress us. Liberation implies <u>not</u> forcing people into particular sexual identities and freeing the homosexuality in everyone.

AN IDEA FOR ACTION

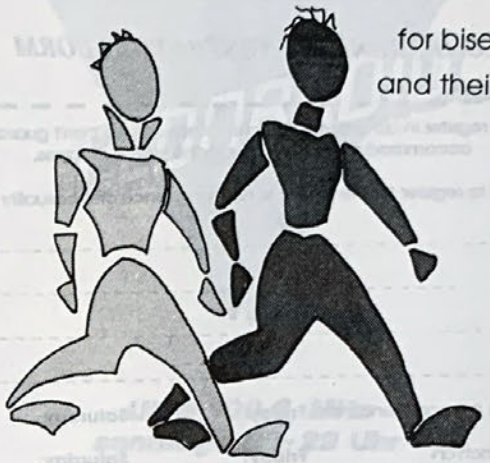
I suggest that some bisexuals put forward the proposal for a 'bisexual caucus', at OLGA's first full meeting in December.

Our reason for defining ourselves as 'specially oppressed' would be that we receive prejudice from both the gay and straight communities.

A Bisexual caucus clearly will <u>not</u> be allowed. I also intend to propose a 'pedofile caucus', which stands an even smaller chance of being accepted.

We can learn a lot from the divisions in the lesbian and gay communities, the main thing is that we have to form a movement of our own!

the fifth national conference on bisexuality



for bisexuals and their allies

60 The Pleasance, Edinburgh.
October 16th-18th 1987

It's time we showed the world that bisexuals exist, that there are lots of us and that we're proud to be bisexual.

Many of us rarely have the chance to meet other bisexuals. There are bisexual groups, but only in a few cities. This conference is an opportunity for us to spend a weekend together. Everyone is welcome.

The conference has several strands running through it. We realise that people will come for different reasons. Some will be coming for support and to be in a place full of friendly and accepting people. Some will be coming to try to build a politics of bisexuality and a bisexual movement. Some will be coming just for fun. The workshops will be organised to allow you to plan your own conference programme.

As bisexuals we suffer from oppression just as lesbians and gay men do. Bisexuality is rarely presented as an option even in the lesbian and gay community. It's up to us to do something about it. We're not playing at our sexuality; we can't trim it neatly to conform to heterosexual or homosexual stereotypes and nor do we want to. We're proud to be bisexual.

timetable

Friday 7pm - 11pm: registration and accommodation.

Saturday		**Sunday**	
10.30	Registration	10.30	Workshops
10.45	Introductory	12.00	Lunch
11.00	Workshops	1.00	Workshops
12.30	Lunch	2.30	Coffee
1.30	Workshops	3.00	Workshops
3.00	Coffee	4.30	Plenary
3.30	Workshops	5.00	Finish
5.00	Finish		

saturday night entertainment

We are arranging entertainment at The Pleasance for Saturday night. At the very least this will be a disco; we also hope to have a cabaret.

This will be free to all participants and guests (up to 2 each). Non-bisexual guests may like to attend the workshop on non-bisexual friends, which will be held during the last session on Saturday.

proposed workshops

bisexuality and feminism (women only) • what is bisexuality? • coming out
sex (men only) • sex (women only) • non-competitive games • SM
heterosexuality, power and privilege • using the media • mental health
positive pornography • massage • building a bisexual movement
phonelines • monogamy and non-monogamy • non-bisexual friends
rôle models & stereotypes • sexual politics in thatcher's britain • transexuality
images of bisexuality • androgyny - a dead end? • married bisexuals
transexuality and feminism • lesbian and gay attitudes to bisexuals
bisexuality and old age • safe sex for bisexuals • having children • power
local groups • bisexuals and AIDS • the politics of consent • fantasies

The women in the organising group have decided that feminist transexuals will be welcome to attend women-only workshops.

local groups

Several people will be coming to the conference hoping to meet other people interested in setting up local groups. They include people from Glasgow, Ayr, Tyneside, the West Midlands and elsewhere.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

~~CUT HERE~~

please register in advance if you can, otherwise we can't guarantee accommodation, lunches, créche space or tapes.

I would like to register for the fifth national conference on bisexuality

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

_____

I will attend the conference on: **Friday:** **Saturday:**

I will want lunch on **Friday:** **Saturday:**
(n.b. Food bought elsewhere may not be consumed on the premises).

I will need accommodation for: **Friday Night:** **Saturday Night:**

I will need conference documents on tape:

I will need créche space for _____ children aged _____

I can offer/would like lifts to the conference (delete as appropriate)

I enclose £ registration fee (n.b. fees below are **per day**)
(cheques/postal orders payable to Edinburgh Bisexual Group)

Registration fees (per day)
unwaged: £1
waged: £2+ £1 per £2000 income above £4000
(more if you can, less if you can't)

Lunches £1 per day. Vegetarians catered for.
Saturday night entertainment and crash accommodation (if you want it) free

Return this form to:
Edinburgh Bisexual Group, 58a Broughton St., Edinburgh EH1 3SA.

crash accommodation

If you live in Edinburgh and you can put people up for either or both Friday and Saturday nights, even if you can't come to the conference yourself, please write to the above address.

I can provide accommodation for: **Friday Night:** **Saturday Night:**

pass it on!

Please give extra copies or photocopies of this leaflet to friends.

Organised by the Edinburgh Bisexual Group, in conjunction with the Edinburgh University Lesbian and Gay Society.
For further details call the *Bisexual Phoneline*, 031 557 3620 Thursdays 7.30-9.30.

travel

Travel to Edinburgh isn't the daunting or expensive prospect it may seem. National coaches run frequent services from all over Britain - e.g. London or Birmingham to Edinburgh: £24 return. Stagecoach run overnight services from London to Edinburgh (calling at Birmingham): £22 return. Both offer concessions for Students and Senior Citizens.

Please indicate on the registration form is you can offer lifts from your area to the conference, or if you would like to take advantage of such offers.

disabled info.

Wheelchair access: Parking at entrances in courtyard. Main entrance 1 step up, door opening outwards, 4 steps down. Back entrance 5 steps down. Once in all one level. All doors wheelchair width. Male & Female disabled toilets. Not all the workshop rooms are on the ground floor, but we can arrange which workshops are in which rooms as required.

BERLIN CALLING

RADIO 100

SOME VERY WELCOME PUBLICITY FOR THE BISEXUAL CAUSE RECENTLY CAME FROM AN UNEXPECTED SOURCE. ELDORADIO, A BERLIN RADIO STATION DEVOTED AN ENTIRE EVENING'S BROADCAST TO BISEXUALITY (13TH MAY 1987).

It focussed on the fact that 'not only is bisexuality relatively unknown and under-discussed among heterosexuals (this applies to the anti-AIDS campaign as well) - on the contrary, bisexuality is actually a taboo subject among lesbians and gays'.

In a letter from a member of the editorial group of the radio station, it was admitted that there had been considerable opposition to the idea of discussing bisexuality as it was felt to be too 'marginal'.

Nevertheless the programme went ahead intent on examining the theoretical writings of bisexuals (eg Charlotte Wolff, Bisexuality. A Study. London 1977) and their link to the practice of bisexual organisations.

The development of bisexual self-awareness in Germany was described as 'at best, timid' and it was hoped that by focussing on other national groups such as those in London, Edinburgh and Boston more enthusiasm could be generated.

A peculiar problem area they dealt with was the category of contact ad where straight men seek bisexual and invariably female partners - eg. bisexuality as unformulated heterosexual fantasy.

They read out a quote from Kate Millett's 'Fear of Flying',

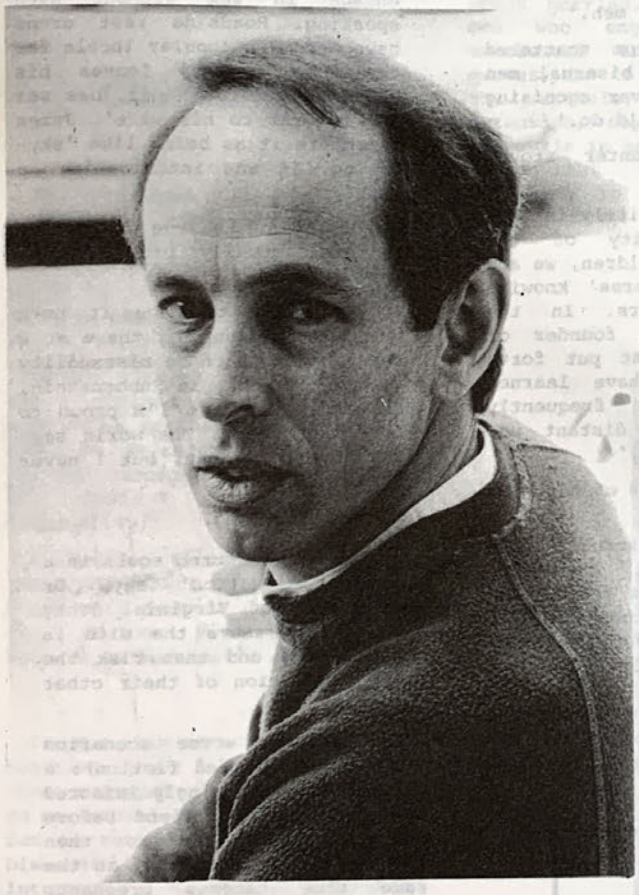
'Homosexuality is the response of a heterosexual world to the difficulty of coming to terms with its own bisexuality'.

A German lesbian writer remarked 'If bisexuals do not wish to remain submerged and invisible in the normal world, they must be articulate and introduce political action into their lifestyles. Although of course this has its dangers too: many bisexuals in Berlin attend lebian or gay groups because they think it is more alternative or chic than being bisexual.

BISEXUALITÆT

ELDORADIO INTERVIEWED OUR OWN DAVID BURKLE OF THE LONDON BISEXUAL GROUP

Q: How long has the London Bisexual Group existed?
David: We met together for the first time in September 1981 at a conference for anti-sexist men.
Q: How many members has your group got at the moment?
David: We don't have an official membership list. All our meetings are open. Every week about 20 or 30 people turn up at the Fallen Angel pub in Islington. On occassions we've had up to 80 people.
Q: What is the proportion of men to women?
David: On the whole, more men. This has always been the case. There is an independent bisexual women's group in London.
Q: Are you in contact with the women's group.
David: Yes, we are in touch with them constantly.



David Burkle of the London Bisexual Group

Q: What sort of activities do you undertake?
David: Normally we have a guest speaker or a designated topic of discussion. We also engage in non-verbal communication: games, massage, etc. We also organise national conferences - we've had three in London and will have one in Edinburgh in the Autumn. We act as an information source for the media, particularly television companies who are desperate for information for their AIDS information programmes.
Q: Do you publish anything?
David: We produce a magazine called Bi-Monthly. It's been going for three years and is mailed to addresses throughout the world.
Q: What is the nature of your contact with other gay groups?
David: We've visited gay groups around the country to join in discussions on bisexuality. We've sent speakers to gay groups, but other forms of cooperation are an individual responsibility. For example, several people with strong political motivation have joined in with the work of other gay groups and, identify themselves as both bisexual and gay.
Q: Does 'Christopher Street Day' have any meaning for your group.
David: Oh you mean the Gay Pride March. Yes, we make a point of attending each year with banners flying. One banner reads 'Bisexual and proud to be lesbian and gay', and I can recall that many gays thought that it was the best banner on the march.
Q: What is the future for your relationship with heterosexul groups?
David: Heterosexual....no idea what that is!!! Well I haven't got much to say about them. In fact I've attempted to get heterosexuals involved...
Q: privately?
David: No, publically involved in raising the awareness of bisexuality. But they don't want to know; they're obsessed with monogamy.
Q: We've heard you were banned from the London Lesbians and Gay Centre.
David: Yes, but that dates back to the time when the centre had just opened. Ultimately this was the decision of women on the committee who thought bisexual men would oppress lesbians just by being in the building.
It was one of our worst crises.
This decision was reversed by a two to one majority at the first AGM of the Centre.
Q: Can you say something about the political situation of the UK and how it affects bisexuals.
David: We now find ourselves under attack, largely due to the AIDS panic. Every day there are anti-gay stories in the press, and so on.
Q: Thankyou, and would you like to choose a record.
David: Yes, 'Falling in love again', by Marlene Dietrich.

ELDORADIO
UKW 100,6 MHz
sonntags 20-22 Uhr

BISEXUALS, AIDS & NEWSWEEK

NEWSWEEK, the American current affairs magazine devoted three pages to bisexuality in its July 13, 1987 issue. In the 'Health' section, an article headlined:

'A PERILOUS DOUBLE LOVE LIFE'

concentrated on finding new scapegoats for AIDS. Plenty of heavily loaded adjectives were sprinkled throughout this piece of 'objective' reporting.

> 'AC/DC. AM/FM. The double-gaited set. The nicknames have always been a little nasty. One view commonly held by therapists and gay activists is that bisexuals are merely self-deceived homosexuals, 'fence-sitters', unwilling to face up to their same sex preference. Heterosexuals tend to think of bi's 'as the ultimate libertines'. As one bisexual put it, 'Why should we be restricted from sleeping with half the human race?' There is now a very short answer to that question, a four letter word that explains why bisexuals are becoming the ultimate pariahs of the eighties. That word is AIDS.

It is strange to read about yourself described some kind of insect:-

> 'A very little is known about the numbers and habits of bisexuals - especially males who keep their dual activities secret from female lovers. Many doctors consider them among the most likely potential conduits for the spread of AIDS to heterosexuals who may bed them or marry them, never suspecting that their partners are leading a dangerous double love life.'

But just fancy:

> 'So far there has been no evidence that bisexuals are passing the disease from the gay to the straight community. But in theory, bisexual husbands can spread the infection that ultimately afflicts their wives and children.'

Now it's time to drag out that hoary old document of 1950's vintage, the 'Kinsey Report'.

> 'Kinsey found that 18% of males were equally involved with men and women for at least three years between the ages of 16 and 55. For women the figures were about half those of men.'

> 'It is clear from scattered studies that most bisexual men are still under cover agonising over what they should do.'

Then a little canter around Freud and company:

> 'Freud believed firmly in 'the original bisexuality of the individual . As children, we are 'polymorphous perverse' knowing no sexual barriers. In the decades since the founder of psychoanalysis first put forth these ideas, we have learned that bisexual men frequently report having had distant unsympathetic fathers.'

Then we wheel in one of the many 'experts':

> 'One type of bisexual' says Francis Gianbrone, a Boston psychotherapist 'is the person who is transitional; he's essentially gay but needs to identify as bisexual to come out to others. Then there are hundreds of men and women who are generally erotically and emotionally attracted to both sexes. A third group is drawn erotically to the same sex but emotionally to the opposite sex.'

Hold on, isn't this getting too sensible and level-headed? So let's have the token bisexual marriage:

> 'He engaged in anonymous furtive homosexual encounters. Finally he told his wife.....'

And why not give our readers a vicarious thrill with a shock horror peek into the world of cottaging:

> 'Male bisexuals....sometimes engage in sex without even speaking. Roadside rest areas have become a popular locale for cruising. 'A man leaves his house to get the paper, has sex and returns to his wife'. James remembers it as being like 'sky-diving. It was intoxicating, a high'.

And would you believe it some of them are actually <u>proud to be bisexual</u>.

> 'The right to have it both ways was a recurring theme at a recent conference on bisexuality in New York. Maggie Rubbenstein, a keynote speaker 'I'm proud to love both sexes. The world says you have to choose, but I never have.'

But not for long.

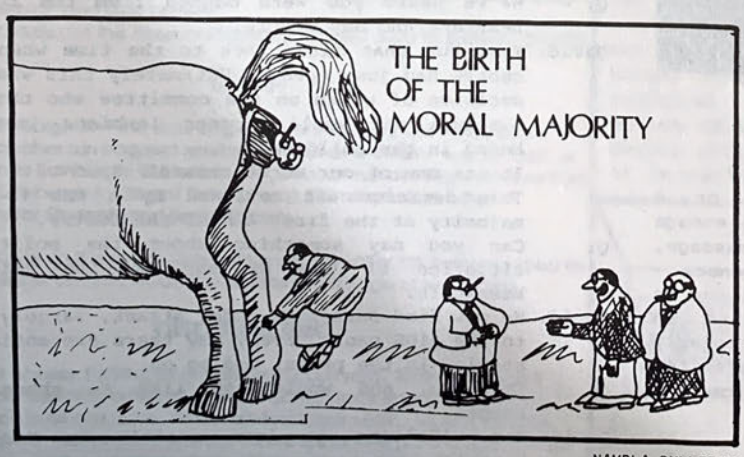
> 'These are tortured souls in a wretched situation' says Dr Thomas Wise of Virginia. 'They have to make sure the wife is not infected and then risk the whole revelation of their other life.'

He imagines worse scenarios (for scenarios read fiction): a young bride unknowingly infected by a bisexual boyfriend before she married, eg, who then infects her husband and, at the same time becomes pregnant, posing a threat to the unborn child.

And then incredibly:

> 'Faced with such horror stories more bisexuals are seeking to change. A sex therapy clinic in New Orleans has been overwhelmed by bisexuals hoping to go straight, among them doctors, lawyers and other high officials. He claims a 70% success rate.....'

Even Newsweek is forced to concede that 'such claims are



NAMBLA BULLETIN

hotly disputed'. Even if they can't admit that there isn't a 'threat' from bisexuals, they are forced to concede that the AIDS era creates an obligation for all sexual partners to be more open with eachother about their lives. And the inescapable conclusion that yes, readers, bisexuality exists and it's not going to go away.

But they can still twist the knife in the last paragraph.

'Any change in relations between bisexuals and straight and gay groups is not likely to happen in the current climate, though - not so long as many straights and gays are discussing AIDS candidly with their partners while bisexual men often don't tell the truth/ even to themselves.'

COMMENT

The Newsweek article is an attempt to manipulate prejudice against bisexuals. Much of what is said and the way it is presented would be very funny, if it were not for the fact that some people may actually take it seriously.

It is interesting to note how the article presented gay prejudices against bisexuality. It would be an interesting alliance, gay and straight united, at last, in their condemnation of bisexuality!

Prejudice, illogical as it is, can be difficult to argue against. Space only permits one reply from the Boston Bisexual Women's Network to Newsweek's article:-

In the interest of combatting negative and false stereotypes about bisexual people, I consented to be interviewed and photographed for an article in Newsweek about bisexual lifestyles. During my interview, I devoted considerable attention to a definition of bisexuality (the potential for being sexually and/or romantically involved with members of either gender), emphasizing that bisexuals are not by definition promiscuous, non-monogamous, or sex-crazed. Some bisexuals may be so, but then too are some heterosexuals and some homosexuals. I discussed my own lifestyle, which is monogamous. I also devoted considerable time to the establishment in recent years of over thirty bisexual support organizations in the United States. My own organizations, the Boston Bisexual Women's Network and East Coast Bisexual Network, boast over 850 and 2,000 members respectively.

I was quite surprised and angered to read the resulting article, which dubbed bisexuals "the ultimate pariahs," and focussed on comments by therapists about married, closeted bisexual men who engage in anonymous homosexual encounters. These quotes, due to the poor quality of the article, were then, by extension, supposed to refer to bisexuals in general, ignoring the fact that the quotes were referring to and applicable to only a small proportion of all bisexuals.

I was most enraged by the article's ending: 'Any thaw in relations (between bisexuals and everyone else) is not likely to happen ... as long as many straights and gays are discussing AIDS candidly with their partners while bisexual men often don't tell the truth - even to themselves.' I think the reality is somewhat different. Many bisexual people, especially those of us who are active in the gay/lesbian community which has been the vanguard of AIDS education, have been educated about AIDS and are practising safer sex. I am afraid that it is the majority of heterosexuals who are still operating under the false assumption that AIDS is someone else's disease.

I hope that the next time Newsweek decides to cover bisexuality, more attention is given to careful and accurate reportage. Hysterical, erroneous reporting may sell more issues of Newsweek but does a tremendous disservice to everyone.

Sincerely,
Robyn Ochs.

Important Notice

GLAD
Gay Legal Advice

Our new telephone number is:
01-253 2043

A beginners guide to liberation

The early 1970's was a time in which 'Gay Liberation' Movements started in many countries. Mario Mieli was an activist during the heyday of the Gay Liberation Front, in London between 1970 and 1972.

His book 'Homosexuality and Liberation: elements of a gay critique' is a comprehensive presentation of the standpoints developed during this time, and also reflects his involvement in revolutionary gay collectives in Italy.

The positive attitudes to bisexuality means that there is much here for us, material with which we can develop our own concepts of liberation. The GLF's death in 1973 left an apolitical 'gay community' and a meek civil rights movement. AIDS is changing the current state of gay politics, but the concepts of liberation are still sadly lacking.

One of the advantages of discussing 'liberation' is that we learn more about how and why we've been oppressed, information that is important in learning something about ourselves, and doing something about our position in society.

Sadly I believe this book is now out of print. In a series of articles I hope to bring some of Mieli's ideas back to life. I have heard that Mieli, himself, is dead.

His book is written from the viewpoint of someone who has experienced things that played a fundamental part in forming his politics, (for example his experience of prisons or clinics for the mentally ill). Politics is not some intellectual mind-game, but is based on learning from your own experiences.

HOMOSEXUAL DESIRE IS UNIVERSAL

Freud said, 'In all of us throughout life, the libido normally oscillates between male and female objects'. He was the first to uphold the universality of homosexual desire. We may choose to reject many of Freud's theories, but we must admit he came up with some useful concepts, the 'unconscious' for example, and 'repression'

POLYMORPHOUS PERVERSITY (WE ARE ALL BISEXUAL)

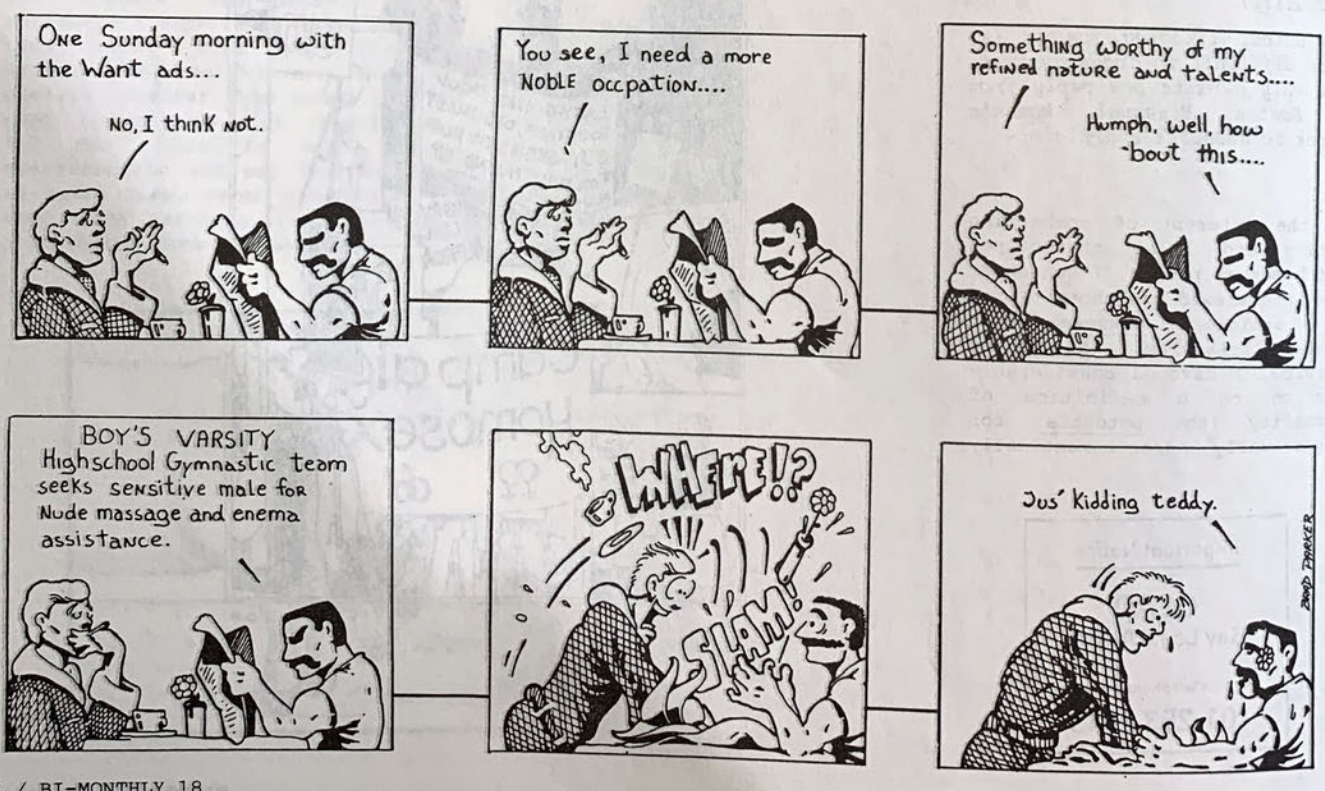
Psychoanalysis (based initially around Freud's ideas) established that there exists an infantile polymorphism; infants are seen to naturally exhibit the so called perversions, including sadism, masochism, coprophilia (love of shit), exhibitionism, voyeurism, homosexuality, etc. The dominant morality considers only heterosexuality as normal and enforces on children an 'educastration' designed to repress their 'perverse' tendancies. The result is a heterosexual adult erotically mutilated but conforming to the Norm.

Everyone is born endowed with a complete range of erotic capability, directed first of all to the self and to the mother, then gradually turning outward to 'everyone' else irrespective of their sex. They become either heterosexual or homosexual only as a result of educastration (repressing their homoertic impulses in the first case, and their heterosexual ones in the second).

Latent (hidden) homosexuality can be seen to exist in everyone who is not a manifest homosexual, as a residue of infantile sexuality, and is sublimated in other forms.

WE'RE ALL TRANSEXUAL

The idea of 'perverse' infantile polymorphism goes hand in hand with the theory of original hermaphrodism. The human embryo starts off undifferentiated between male and female, with cells from which both sets of sexual characteristics can develop. Usually one set develops leaving the other at a lower stage of development, a residue of the other sex.


One Sunday morning with the Want ads...
No, I think not.
You see, I need a more NOBLE occpation....
Something worthy of my refined nature and talents....
Humph. well, how 'bout this....
BOY'S VARSITY Highschool Gymnastic team seeks sensitive male for Nude massage and enema assistance.
WHERE!?
SLAM!
Jus' kidding teddy.
DAVID DRAKER

In general we call 'transexuals' those who consciously live out their own hermaphrodism. Persecuted by a society that cannot accept any confusion between the sexes, they usually seek to identify with the 'opposite' gender to their genital definition.

We are all 'transexual' in that we have the characteristics of both sexes. Society, however has forced us to adopt one role or the other, male or female. Both homosexual desire and desire for the other sex derive from the transexual nature of our underlying being.

SOME OF THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF 'NORMAL' DEVELOPMENT

The male and female rôles which are forced upon children, including their sexuality, lead to the subjection and oppression of women, the estrangement of the human being from himself, and the negation of the human community.

Boys, for example are taught to be ashamed of their gay impulses, just like their femininity. This is what leads the child to associate homosexuality with femininity.

A NORMAL BOYHOOD

Boys are taught to take their fathers as models for their own lives. Idenfification with the father is largely based on the repression of homoerotic desire for him.

Male Narcissim - A heterosexual male often when repressing his homosexual desire, set himself up as the sole 'homosexual object', and within his relationships with women will impose his autoeroticism on them. But this is an alienated autoeroticism, based on the repression of gay desire and on the sacrifice of so-called 'feminine' components. This is why so many straights make such sadly inadequate lovers.

The boy's relationship with his mother - 'The mother strokes him, kisses him, rocks him and quite clearly treats him as a complete sexual object' (Freud). Yet the mother is forbidden any overtly sexual love for her child, so her erotic relationship with her son is expressed in an indirect and alienated way. This first suppressed sexual relationship leaves a harmful trace in the erotic life of us all.

It is through the relationship with his mother that the boy forms his first idea of woman.

Heterosexuality involves the projection of the other sex that is latent within us onto persons of the 'opposite' sex. It is determined by the repression of both our transexuality, and of the so-called 'perverse' tendancies, in particular homosexuality. By projecting his 'femininity onto the woman the man no longer recognises the woman or his own 'femininity'.

Sexual Liberation can only come through the (re)conquest of transexuality , and the overcoming of heterosexuality as it presents itself today. The struggle is above all, a struggle for the liberation of homoerotic desire.

NEUROSIS AND 'PERVERSION'

Homosexuality is usually explained in terms of heterosexual categories, based on a rejection of the underlying hermaphrodism that exists in humans.

Freud himself viewed homosexuality as a 'perversion', but in fact refused to regard it as an illness. According to Freud, only genital heterosexuality is not 'deviant'. Even oral sex between men and women is classed as a 'deviation in respect of the sexual aim'. His definitions of 'normal' and 'perverse' were made according to the morality of the day.

Even today psychotherapists declare homosexuality to be undesireable because it is not 'normal'.

The harmful effects that our upbringing has on us internally can be described as 'neurosis'. We all have these, gay and straight. Homoeroticism itself is not an illness, it is the persecution inflicted on us, that is pathological and pathogenic.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE - A look at the Oedipus Complex, and the ideology of oppression.

INTERNATIONAL LESBIAN & GAY YOUTH ORGANISATION CONFERENCE

GEZ

As this was a conference of young people, I expected a radical and energetic approach to Lesbian and Gay Politics.

I was disappointed; this week long event was organised by mainly older, white male middle-class men, and seemed to have a bureaucratic structure in which many people felt powerless and had no say in the way it was run.

The various committees seemed to be in some sort of power struggle, where the winners were usually white, middle class and male.

It was quite obvious that lots of people came for something quite different to political discussion and policy making. I agree with the necessity of the social apsects, but not at the expense of everything else, as seemed the case here.

This conference was different in many ways. Many bisexuals were 'out' and voicing our discontent, to the horror of the 'purer' gays, that the organisers had not thought of us. Our existence was barely recognised.

All the males were given condoms at the beginning. When a female bisexual asked for some, she was asked what she wanted them for!

I enjoyed talking to the other bisexuals, something I have been unable to do in most gay meetings.

SM was also brought to the surface in some workshops. There was a very informative slide-show and then the group split into male and female workshops as some women didn't feel they could talk freely about SM with boys/men present. This became increasingly understandable as I sat through the all male workshop. The prejudice against SM was such that it stifled anyone who could have told us about it.

When I did get to talk to some sadomasochists, I was surprised as all my pre-conceived myths and prejudices crumbled.

I also talked to people who were pro-pedofile. Fortunately they didn't feel as threatened here, as at most lesbian and gay conferences and meetings.

Over the last few days a small group of us got together, agreeing that we felt unhappy about the conference and unable to express ourselves in such an oppressive atmosphere, (which we felt to be dominated by people who were sexist, racist and bigoted).

We submitted a statement to the organising committee and hope that in next years conference, in Berlin, that we can make ourselves heard, along with other oppressed groups within the Lesbian and Gay movement.

I feel I'm safe
In the heart of this city
This is the city
And I'm lost

I'm alone in places my friends inhabit
I really shouldn't go
But I'm drawn
- such a sorry picture -

Sickening screams
Jolt into view
Because I'm so very young
I'm standing still
Move about me
I cry

Cracks in the mirror
Break cigarettes in two
People's overcoats move closer
Three people sit staring at me

Well it's a funny place
So I try hard not to laugh
Move about me
Move closer

Step after step
Lead me to your back room
Here lay me down
I hear no sound
Move about me
I cry

Hidden City

Neil

Shape

Just before the lights went out
Just before the light went out
For the first time in my life
Lines that must be straight
Curved
So why was there no surprise?
So why don't I feel joy?
I feel I should be surprised
By something I'd always known!
Did you know -
Distant lands have tribes
And these tribes
Do not understand shape
Their primitive minds
Have only sharp edges
And new shape
Might frighten these people
But I don't really know
Because I'm still learning

Dear Editor,
Attached is a 'poem' in which I have tried to express my feelings.

I am a 48 year old Male Bisexual happily married with two teenage children. I have had little experience of gay sex.But from this experience I realize that there must be hundreds of men in the same position as myself. Men who love their families but NEED a gay relationship. Someone they can trust. Especially regarding Aids.

Someone they can trust.Especially regarding AIDS.A guy who they can be themselves with, meet and talk to, and have safer sex with.

Would it be possible for you to print my letter and poem in your next issue inviting replies from men who are in similar circumstances to myself.

Do not print my name or address

I have no monetary or ulterior motives just a genuine desire to have contact with men who will understand.

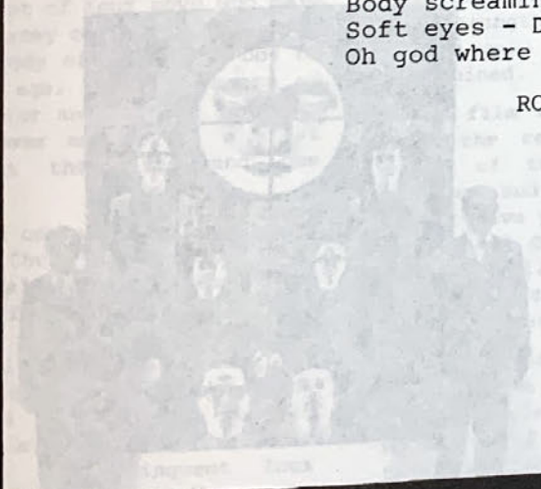
I hope you will accept my request. I also hope you have been able to decipher my handwriting.

Regards,
Ron, (S. Yorks)
c/o LBG, BM BI, London WC1N 3XX

Ide Collar 1922
Paul Outerbridge Jr.

Soft eyes - Dark Hair - White limbs
Allow myself to touch
His skin is smooth and warm
His nakedness exciting.
Acceptance of the inevitable
brings relaxation.
But is it right?
Can't ever tell - Secret.
Wife - Children - Love - Commitments
Too late for me.
Need him - Hold him - Kiss him
His lips encircle - Tongue
gently probing.
My whole being seems to be there
That all demanding urge
Insisting on satisfaction for
that part of me that I deny.
The unacceptable - The me I hide.
His lips move faster. His probing
stronger.
I push to meet him
Thrust, Thrust, Thrust.
Suspended for one eternal moment.
My whole life spurts out of me
Extacy - release - reciprocation
relaxation.
Realization - self condemnation - Guilt
Dress quickly - avoid eyes.
Words hard to find - Must go.
lock away feelings
Hide behind facade.
Trapped in bisexual dilemma
Must not see him again.
How long can I last.
Time - Have need of him.
Torn apart - Frustrated - afraid.
Body screaming - Just one more time
Soft eyes - Dark hair - Temptation
Oh god where will it all end

RON



My Life as a Dog

'My Life as a dog' is a unique film whose skill and sensitivity make it very special.

I saw it at the Renoir cinema in Bloomsbury, where it has settled into a long run. The fact that this Swedish film had English subtitles didn't seem to help the audience understand what was going on. Those trendy affluent heterosexual couples couldn't see beyond the narrow stereotypes of 'childhood', to appreciate the relaxed and considerable talent of Anton Glanzelius, who played ten year old Ingemar Jonsson.

Ingemar's mother is bed-ridden, and he tries to curb his natural energy , when he realises the strain this is putting on her.

Ingemar develops a nervous twitch when drinking which makes him splash the drink into his face and over himself. This produced the cruellest laugh from the audience.

To secure their mother peace and quiet Ingemar and his elder brother are sent away, Ingemar, to stay with relatives in a small town in the country. He wants to take his dog with him, but is told that it will be put in kennels until his mother is better, and he can return home.

The small town, in 1959, seems dominated by two things, the local glassworks and sport. Ingemar meets a girl of the same age called Saga and is fascinated by her. He admires her skills as a footballer and a boxer. She tries to hide her developing breasts, so that she can remain in the boys' football team, but her efforts look doomed.

The way in which childhood sexuality is portrayed, natural, but at times awkward, together with tender moments between Ingemar and Saga, fit in with the overall honest, non-romanticised portrayal of the life of a young person, which helps set this film apart.

The audience laughed, slightly un-easily at these, unable to consider that child sexuality is real, and is not a joke. They confused these moments with the many humorous ones. It appears that most English adults, parents and parents to be, can't understand children, and can't take them seriously. They are not fit to look after children!

Life is full of humorous moments, but much sadness too, as Ingemar comes to realise that his Mum is dying.

After she dies Ingemar realises that his dog is also dead, and he has day dreams in which he thinks of the Russian dog Laika, launched into space to orbit the earth with only a limited supply of air.

Deep down he blames himself for his mother's death, and at moments of stress, goes down on all fours and barks like a dog.

The film is filled with wonderfully observed detail concerning Ingemar's relationships with other people, and his reaction to the circumstances he finds himself in, with so little power over his own life.

This film is well worth scouring the independant cinema programs for, where it still receives the occassional showing. I can't recommend it highly enough!

Eastenders

The summer of '87 has seen both the Hayward Gallery and Bond St dealers Anthony D'Offay celebrating the work of Gilbert and George.

Over the last twenty years this openly gay couple resident in Spitalfields, East London have built up their reputation as artists of the world class. Starting out as 'living sculptures', progressing to videos, paintings, and most famously photographic collages, their coverage in the media has been extensive.

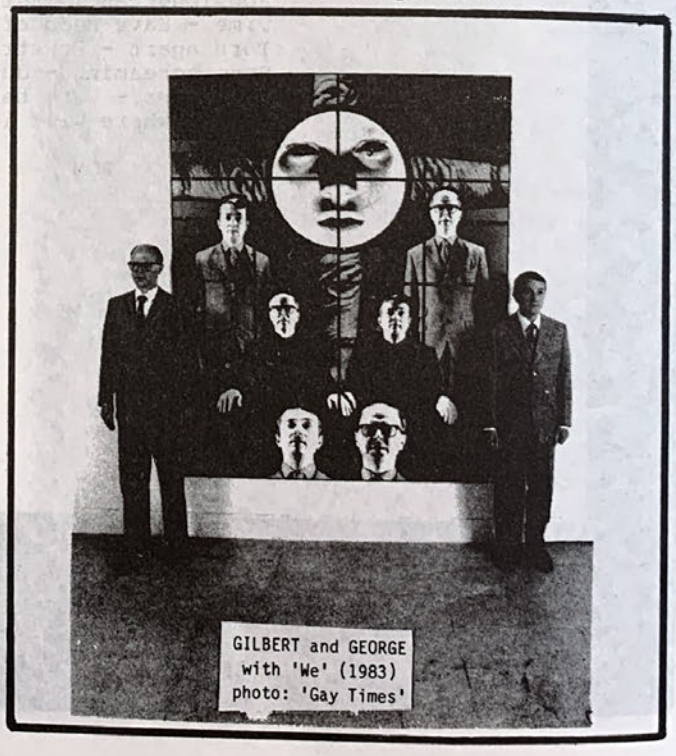
Anyone visiting the show of their work at Anthony D'Offay must concede their talent. Huge boldly coloured collages depicting young men, plants and East End scenes dominate the gallery.

In good art, as in any good recipe the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Each work bears a title, such as 'Tears' or 'Miss You' which is slightly disconnected from the subject matter of the picture. This will often be an East End youth or the artists themselves. (Incidentally they bear an alarming resemblance to Morcambe and Wise).

The use of heavy grids and crucifix formations is redolent of stained glass windows, an air of dead pan camp pervades the whole show.

It is impossible to convey the power of these patterns and images, without actually seeing the pictures. Gilbert and George explore the gay sub-conscious in all of us, and at times this can be a shocking experience.

Like them or loathe them, but go and see them if you can.



GILBERT and GEORGE with 'We' (1983) photo: 'Gay Times'

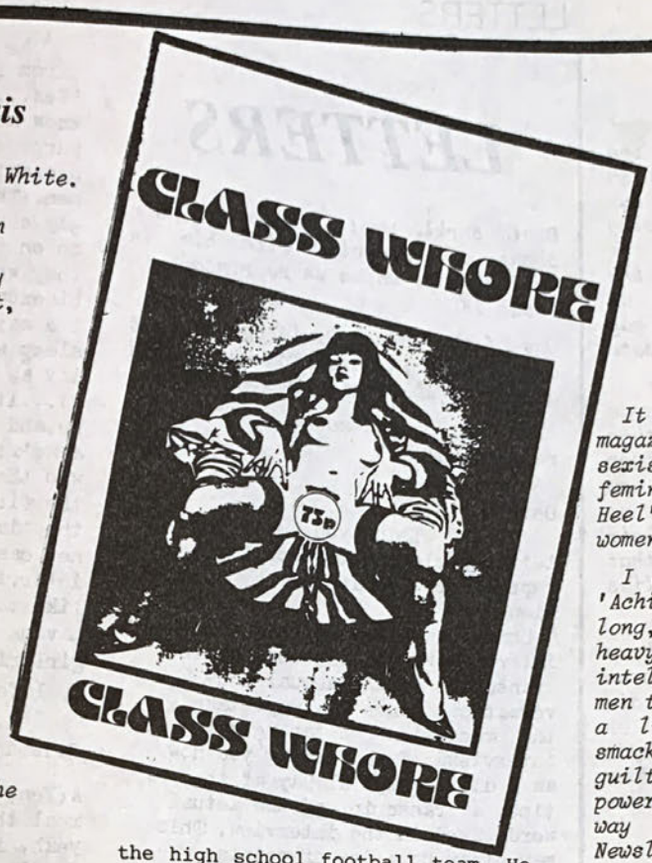
The Darker Proof Stories from a Crisis

Adam Mars-Jones, and Edmund White. Faber £3.95

Adam Mars-Jones is the film critic of the Independent and openly gay. He is also a Buddy with the Terence Higgins Trust, and his short stories deal with that area of his experience.

They are deperately sad and moving but it is important to read them. Far too many people are brushing this issue under the carpet.

Edmund White is a famous gay novelist: 'A Boy's Own Story' et al. His contribution to this collection is much more on the level of fantasy. All his characters lead a very wealthy cosmopolitan lifestyle - New York, Paris, the Greek Islands. All this luxurious scene-setting seems greatly irrelevant in the circumstances.



Stand by me

It took me time to adjust to the real world again, after watching 'Stand by me'. It's always like that walking from a darkened cinema, into the bright, busy and three dimensional world of London, at night. But with 'Stand by me', however, the film's emotional impact remained long after it finished.

The film is set in a small American town in 1959. The story told is that of four boys who make a long journey on foot to look for the dead body of a missing boy of their own age. In the process of searching for and finding the body they discover and reveal a great deal about themselves and one another.

The film concentrates on two of the four, Chris and Gordie. River Phoenix delivers a strong and moving performance as Chris, the leader of the gang. He's from a 'bad' family and is labelled a 'no hoper' by the people in the town. (With their prejudice the chances of him raising himself from the status of semi-delinquent look slim). Chris is outwardly macho and brave, but his friendship with Gordie reveals him to be compassionate sensitive and understanding.

Gordie's parents had put all their love and energy into his elder brother, who was the star of the high school football team. He was the only one in the family who stood up for Gordie (superbly played by Wil Wheaton), and his death leaves Gordie unsupported, and rejected because he is not the sort of son his parents want.

There is a tender moment as Chris comforts Gordie, who is crying. Chris recognises and encourages Gordie's talent for story-telling and gives the support and love that Gordie's family fails to give.

There's action and adventure, too, which is on the whole is effective. The film does at times slip into moments of crass, Hollywood style entertainment, but the strength of the plot and the acting make sure that it is not undermined.

The film was rated '15'! Is it that the censors deem that the sight of twelve year old boys smoking and swearing just like real twelve year olds do, is a bad influence? Or are they trying to prevent children seeing children portrayed as individuals, with their own needs and strengths.

This film did remind me of parts of my own childhood, and of boyhood friendships. One of the messages of the film was that these boyhood friendships are very special, the like of which a man can never have again. This is part of the 'myth of childhood', that children are happy and free, but maybe reflected the writers feelings for close relationships with other males, the like of which he only had in his boyhood.

The 'Achilles Heel' of Men's Anti-Sexism

It is interesting to compare two magazines, one produced by anti-sexist men 'committed to a pro-feminist position', 'Achilles Heel', the other produced by women, called 'Class Whore'.

I didn't manage to read all of 'Achilles Heel'. It seemed far too long, many of the articles were too heavy and pretentiously intellectual. I suppose I just find men talking about their anti-sexism a little boring. The magazine smacked of men expressing their guilt at being in positions of power and privilege, in a similar way to the 'Mens Anti-sexist Newsletter'.

HOMOPHOBIA

There was an article about 'homophobia'. The things said were fair enough, but I found the theorising slightly patronising and tokenistic. I think that the only effective articles about homophobia are written by those who have experienced it. The same goes for sexism. This highlights a major weakness of 'Achilles Heel'.

The limitations of the homophobia article lay within the limitations of much left wing 'Lesbian and Gay politics'. It was all about 'being good allies of lesbians and gay men', and failed to mention the concept of bisexuality, or the things that young lesbians, gays and bisexuals have to go through.

There's another aspect to homophobia, which is that straights be honest about their sexuality, and admit that many of them have been attracted to people of the same sex, or recognise their potential to be. A lot of straights are not that straight, and not that honest! They can comfortably discuss 'Lesbian and Gay Rights', but bisexuality is a bit more of a shady subject, perhaps challenging their (hetero-)sexual identity more.

I have heard from someone who used to go to Achilles Heel collective meetings and found that they were obsessed with homophobia, and were actually very homophobic. He also found the meetings extremely competitive, the dominant males vying with eachother to be the most correctly 'anti-sexist'.

CHILD SEX ABUSE

The article titled 'Child Rape' annoyed me. It highlighted the family as being the main area in which child abuse goes on, but instead of developing a convincing analysis of the family and the position of children within it, the author, launched himself on an attack of those within the gay pedofile movement, who advocate 'childrens' rights'.

Surely the steps towards preventing child abuse lie within giving children more power over their own lives, changing the law and society so that children are no longer the property of their parents, and making sure that children can get out of families and homes they don't like.

This article, so keen to pick up the power differences between adults and children (which it did not discuss with any depth or awareness) shows another major weakness of the magazine. It does not address the power differences between men and women in relationships.

'CLASS WHORE'

'Class Whore' is refreshingly different. It is not written by women towing a prescriptive line. It was started by women who used to be involved in the Anarchist magazine 'Class War'. As such they got pissed off with the so called 'anti-sexism' of men within the 'revolutionary movement'.

'Naturally those men who drivel on about male violence and sexism are simply purging their guilt over beating up their girlfriends and getting turned on by boring porno mags'.

The articles are short, down-to-earth, provocative and highly readable.

In issue one, of the two produced so far, male/female relationships are discussed, and there's another one attacking the way 'porn' is made a scapegoat by anti-sexist men and women.

'Do porno books and films portray women any less realistically than Mills and Boon or pre-Raphaelite paintings? Why ban only porn?'

'Porn provides a convenient diversion, a 'reason', a scapegoat to stop them examining their own behaviour towards men.'

Tokenistic anti-racism also comes under attack, and a wide range of issues are covered. Visually it is very striking, and there is much to be admired in 'Class Whore'. ——

LETTERS

David Burkle wrote to Tom Robinson about an interview with him in Capital Gay, which we reprinted, in issue 16.

One of the things David asked about was a quote in which Tom was quoted as saying about his woman lover,

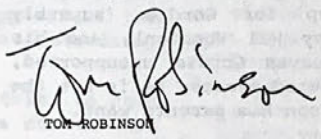
'The sex....is nothing like the real thing'.

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter enclosing the copy of your reprint of the Capital Gay interview.

Unfortunately, the original interview was wildly inaccurate transcript of the actual conversation. Since I always take the precaution of taping my interviews, I am sending you now as I did to Capital Gay at the time, a transcript of the actual words used in the interview. This may clear up a lot of points.

With all good wishes,



TOM ROBINSON

(from Tom's transcript:
'Yes...because I suppose we all know men who to all intents and purposes are straight, but who occassionally sleep with other men. They don't identify with the gay cause or gay oppression... so on the whole you would say the they were straight men.With some bisexual leanings.So (for myself) I d say that regardless of who I sleep with..l'd say that I identify as a gay man.....
.....It's got to be an issue of: me and her are fon of each other & we're close together because of who the two of us are.It's not the first time....(actually) at the time when Claire Rayner did her casebook on homosexuality & interviewed me about 'what it was like to be gay' I was actually having this riotous affair with a girlfriend for the first time in my life.One of life's...ironies.

Q:Is it different(to gay love)?

A:Yes, it's not the same as the real thing obviously, but um - yeah, it has things to be said for it. I mean the fact that she has relationships with women also, and that we go on gay rallies together....helps because you're not trying to act out some macho role, just enjoying ourselves).

BBWN

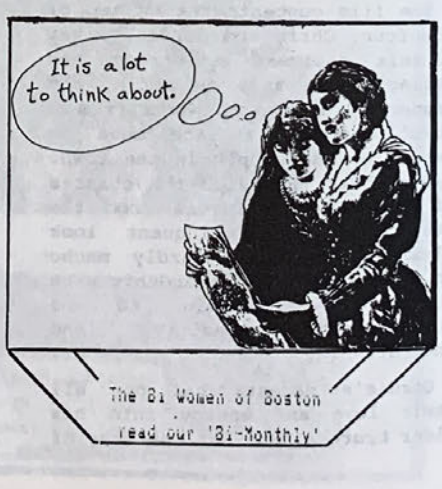
The Boston Bisexual Women's Network

Dear Editors,

First we would like to tell you how much we enjoy receiving the Bi-Monthly. It's inspiring to know that so much is happening in Britain for bisexuals. We look forward to hearing about your ongoing activities in upcoming issues of your exciting newsletter.

We look forward to working with you in the future.

In solidarity, Robyn Ochs
Laura Sachs
Jean Kropper
Stacie Samson
for Boston Bisexual Womens' Network



WOMEN ONLY SPACE, TRANSEXUALITY

Dear Bi-Monthly,

I got hold of issues 16 and 17 of your mag the other day and enjoyed a lot of what I read, though there wasn't much womyn's stuff in either of them.

I really liked the 'children & pedofilia' article.

Two letters upset me, one in each issue. One of them was the anti-womyn's meetings one in issue 16 - especially since I am a (feminist) trans-sexual, and the letter seemed to be written from a trans-sexual point of view. The writer seems at one point to realise the need for womyn's space: 'time and time again I have seen the women unable to breach the barrage of male voices' but appears to believe that bisexual men are somehow magically un-sexist. Bollocks! Some bisexual men I know have worked through nearly all of their sexism and are valuable allies against patriachy, but I know some who are hopelessly chauvinist shitheads.

The argument about womyn's space is getting really boring. Womyn's space is not anti-men. It's not about men (yes there does actually exist something that isn't about males). Womyn need womyn's space for loads of different reasons:- for a rest; to open out; to re-charge before getting active in mixed space again, for instance.

Thinking that bisexual men are automatically un-sexist is falling to the same trap as thinking that men in the peace movement are automatically un-sexist. It's not long since womyn were raped by male peace campers at Molesworth. And people still oppose womyn's space at Greenham. It's incredible!

As long as there are mixed meetings as well as single sex ones, there's no problem about transexuals having to choose between men-only and womyn only meetings. Why should transvestites (men who dress 'as women') want to go to womyn's meetings an anyway???

As a pre-op transexual womun I face difficult decisions about go going to womyn's meetings. Basically I've decided it's not worth risking one womun being threatened by my presence. There's more than enough work to be done in mixed space, and I spend most of my time when I'm not at meetings with womyn anyway.

After the operation I'll rethink. Probably I will be attending womyn's meetings (I am and I always have been a womun). But I hope I act sensitively in doing so.

The other article which bugged me was the anti-ped letter, by Rachel in issue 17. It's the same old argument people are always using against me. 'The Lesbian & Gay Movement must be respectable to succeed, therefore we must have nothing to with transexuals/ lesbians gays & bisexuals who are under 16/ transvestites/ pedofiles/ S & Mers/ prostitutes/ people with AIDS/ etc etc, yawn.

The only way we have even a hope of fighting prejudice is to fight all prejudice with integrity and stubborness NOT treading on the faces of those a bit less respectable than we are in the hope of sucking up to bigots.

Rachel also says that she thinks the acceptance of pedofilia will 'dgrade the elderly and tend to isolate them from a youth culture which would become very competitive sexually'.

Children's liberation and ped liberation are all about fighting ageism, breaking down barriers an and stereotypes to do with age.

Enough of my angry wafflings. Thankyou for being there as a magazine.

Love Rosa xx

We WELCOME your comments on all aspects of bisexuality and other topics. Please keep your letters short and address them to:-

BI-MONTHLY, BM BI,
LONDON WC1N 3XX.

If you have any news, views, information, let the world know through BI-MONTHLY!
We would also love to receive cartoons, graphics, photographs. (Please credit the source if you nick it from another publication).

I am writing in reply to recent objections to women-only meetings at the London Bisexual Group.

I have recently set up a Women's Bisexual Group at Manchester and feel a Women Only Group is necessary. I have recently sussed myself out and also come to terms with myself. During this time I have often phoned various helplines. The Lesbian Line actually refused to acknowledge that I exist and told me to leave my husband. The staff at Gay Information and Friend were friendly and helpful. However throughout that time there wasn't a group in the area for women who thought along the same lines as I do. The organiser of the Manchester Bisexual Group actually wrote that women who contact his group do not join as no other women are members.

My main reason for wanting to set up a Women's Only Bi Group was so that in future when a woman is going through the many difficulties of accepting her bisexuality there will now be an alternative to being told from the local lesbian line that she should leave her husband and there will now be an alternative to going along to a men's meeting and feeling intimidated.

I don't want to criticise the bisexual group in Manchester as they have certainly been prepared to listen to me - however I'm well aware just how nervous women would be walking into a Men's Bi Group.

Last year I decided I would go along. I went along before the meeting was due to begin but my nervousness got the better of me. I went home feeling very upset.

Through a local Women's newsletter I've been able to contact a few bisexual women who agreed there was a need for a Women Only group.

I approached Friend and Manchester Gay Information who agreed we could meet at their centre.

As for allowing transvestites and transexuals into Women Only meetings then my personal view is No. There are groups within Manchester and indeed elsewhere run by the Beaumont Society for transvestites and transexuals. However they only let heterosexual transvestites join and as an organisation exclude gay people and bisexual transvestites.

The clause that states hetro transvestites (should only join?) is known as clause 2 and they have another clause which states that with the exception of clause 2, that any clauses can be changed. Personally I will be intolerant of any organisation that does not tolerate gay or bisexual people.

Yours sincerely.

Bi for now!

Vi - Manchester Women's Bisexual Group

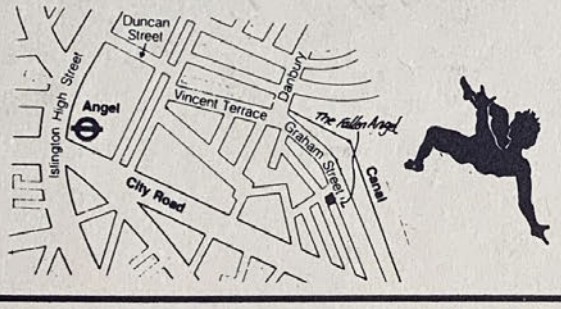
Advertisement

London Bisexual Group

Expand Your Horizons.

The London Bisexual Group meets every Monday at a friendly and pleasant pub in Islington. Here you can enjoy a delicious small meal or sample their choice of local beers before joining us for one of our informal get-togethers or a lively discussion. Hundreds of men and women have done so in the last few years. Why don't you come and make some new friends. You'll be surprised.

THE FALLEN ANGEL HOW TO GET THERE



Meetings start at 8.30pm. For further information write to BM BI London WC1N 3XX.

You never know until you've tried it. LBG.

SPEAKERS

The London Bisexual Group needs suggestions (and volunteers) for speakers at its weekly meetings. The speaker usually gives a talk or leads an activity. The talks can cover a wide range of subjects, anything that will provoke discussion will do. We'd also enjoy workshops on massage, or other physical activities. Contact David on 01-340 5729.

SATURDAYS

The London Bisexual Group now has a weekly organising meeting at the Fallen Angel on Saturday lunchtimes at one. It is here that the week's post is opened, and the group is run. We desperately need more volunteers to help organise events and the meetings.

BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE OFFICE

We're getting organised here at Bi-Monthly and now have an office. However we ask that readers still contact us via the BM BI address. We would like to gear the magazine more towards women's perspectives but have no women in the magazine collective at the moment. We're also seeking to improve the quality of the magazine & to expand its circulation, but do need help.

DON'T JUST SIT THERE!

Goodness Gracious Me 4

I'm in the process of sticking up the magazine, & have had the tv on in the background. I have just witnessed a disgusting program on Channel 4, ('Comment', 7.55pm, 14 Sep).

We were presented with a psychoanalyst (I'm a bigot - it's my job - as opposed to religious fanatics - I'm a bigot, it's what I believe in) who was attacking positive images of homosexuality in schools, or even on the television.

He argued that teenagers are at a difficult stage, swinging wildly between 'normal' heterosexuality and 'abnormal' homosexuality, and that it is society's duty to ensure that they grow up normally. He grudgingly admitted that psychiatrists no longer classed 'homosexuality' as an illness, but was quick to point out how undesireable homosexuality is.

This quack's name was Ismond Rosen, and he was allowed to pollute the airwaves with very harmful pseudo-scientific bullshit.

I'm often surprised and disappointed at how apathetic people at the London Bisexual Group are. I maintain that any lesbian, gay or bisexual person watching this program should have felt at least some anger. I hope our readers accept that homosexuality is not inferior to & is no less natural than homosexuality. I hope they have a desire to fight against the negative images of homosexuality that are portrayed in the media.

If no anger is felt then an ultimate state of self-oppression has been reached. If we do no campaigning and take no action we are ensuring that millions of lesbians, gays and bisexuals will continue to get queer-bashed, either physically (by thugs in or out of uniform), verbally, or in the printed word. There is a battle to be fought, the enemies are clear.

There are some surprisingly effective ways of campaigning, despite the stranglehold that the bigots have over much of the media.

Television reaches more people than radio and the newspapers combined. They do pretend to have a position of neutrality in a 'democratic' society. So the least we can do is phone the duty officer immediately after a program we feel is prejudiced or harmful. Let them know you are bisexual, and complain if the concept of bisexuality is omitted from discussions on homosexuality.

The numbers to ring are listed below, so keep your Bi-Monthly by the television (or the telephone). It is also worth trying to get a reply in writing to points you have made. Bi-Monthly is interested in publishing the answers obtained.

Some of our enemies, like Mary Whitehouse, have had a tremendous impact on the media, by just being very active and vocal. Her campaigning group is in fact very small.

Likewise why not respond to newspaper articles, (or to the lack of coverage that we receive). There are sympathetic local newspapers (remember there are many gays working in the media), who will publish your letters.

Remember prejudices are largely built on ignorance, we must do what we can to fight ignorance and prejudice. What lies at stake are not only the sort of things that lesbians, gays and bisexuals have to go through, but also our self-pride!

If you want to comment on TV programmes, here's how

BBC Television Centre, Wood Lane, W12	Ask for duty office 743 8000
Thames TV, 306 Euston Road, NW1	Daytime ask for Viewers' Correspondence, evenings ask for Duty Officer 387 9494
London Weekend Television, South Bank Television Centre, Kent House, Upper Ground, SE1	Ask for Viewers' Correspondence 261 3434
Channel 4, 60 Charlotte Street, W1	Ask for Duty Office 631 4444
C4 also have a video box where you can present your views on screen.	
TV-am, Breakfast TV Centre, Hawley Crescent, NW1	Ask for Duty Office 267 4300